



DAVID HILLIARD
... taken into custody

Hilliard Convicted Of Assault

OAKLAND, Calif., June 12 (AP)—David Hilliard, Black Panther chief of staff, was convicted today on two counts of assaulting police officers with a deadly weapon.

The jury of seven men and five women acquitted him on two counts of attempted murder stemming from a shootout with Oakland police officers April 6, 1968, two days after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

Hilliard, who had been free on bail, was taken into custody and lodged in the Alameda County Jail.

Superior Court Judge William Hayes set June 28 for hearing a motion of a new trial. He set sentencing for July 2. The conviction carries a penalty of six months to life imprisonment on each count.

The jury returned its verdict in the third day of deliberations after hearing five days of testimony.

Panther Bobby Hutton, 17, was killed and Eldridge Cleaver, now in exile in Algeria, was wounded in the 1968 shootout.

Hilliard testified that he came on the shootout by accident and took refuge under a bed in a nearby house. Prosecutor Frank Vukobratovic told the jury that Hilliard was a principal in the shootout, though he may never have had a gun in his hand.